

CLAIMS

That which is claimed is:

1. A sole component for an article of footwear, the sole component comprising a bladder formed of a barrier material that encloses a fluid, the bladder including a first surface and an opposite second surface, and the bladder including at least one flexion indentation formed in the second surface such that a space is formed between the indentation and the first surface, the space including the fluid.
2. The sole component recited in claim 1, wherein the indentation extends from a lateral side of the bladder to a medial side of the bladder.
3. The sole component recited in claim 1, wherein the first surface and the second surface are joined through an interior of the bladder by a plurality of interior bonds that are spaced inward from a sidewall of the bladder.
4. The sole component recited in claim 3, wherein at least one of the interior bonds joins the first surface with the indentation.
5. The sole component recited in claim 3, wherein at least three of the interior bonds join the first surface with the indentation.
6. The sole component recited in claim 3, wherein an elevation of the interior bonds with respect to the first surface and the second surface varies.
7. The sole component recited in claim 1, wherein the bladder includes two of the indentation.
8. The sole component recited in claim 1, wherein the indentation is positioned in a forefoot region of the bladder.

9. The sole component recited in claim 1, wherein the bladder is formed of a first barrier layer and a second barrier layer, the first barrier layer forming the first surface and the sidewall, and the second barrier layer forming the second surface.
10. The sole component recited in claim 9, wherein the first barrier layer is secured to the second barrier layer to form a peripheral bond positioned at an interface of the sidewall and the second surface.
11. The sole component recited in claim 1, wherein a reinforcing structure is secured to the bladder and extends at least partially around the bladder.
12. The sole component recited in claim 11, wherein the bladder includes depressions, a portion of the reinforcing structure being positioned within the depressions and bonded to the depressions.
13. The sole component recited in claim 1, wherein the bladder includes at least two chambers, and the fluid within the two chambers exhibit different fluid pressures.
14. The sole component recited in claim 1, wherein a heel region of the bladder is narrower than a forefoot region of the bladder to correspond with a shape of a foot.
15. A sole component for an article of footwear, the sole component comprising:
 - a bladder formed of a barrier material that encloses a pressurized fluid, the bladder including a first surface, an opposite second surface, and a sidewall extending between the first surface and the second surface, the sidewall including a plurality of depressions extending between the first surface and the second surface; and
 - a reinforcing structure secured to the bladder and extending at least partially around the bladder, a portion of the reinforcing structure being positioned within the depressions and bonded to the depressions.

16. The sole component recited in claim 15, wherein the pressurized fluid exerts an outward force on the sidewall, and the reinforcing structure restrains distension of the sidewall due to the pressurized fluid.

17. The sole component recited in claim 15, wherein the first surface and the second surface are joined through an interior of the bladder by a plurality of interior bonds that are spaced inward from a sidewall of the bladder.

18. The sole component recited in claim 15, wherein the bladder includes at least one flexion indentation formed in the second surface such that a space is formed between the indentation and the first surface, the space including the fluid.

19. The sole component recited in claim 18, wherein the indentation extends from a lateral side of the bladder to a medial side of the bladder.

20. The sole component recited in claim 18, wherein the first surface and the second surface are joined through an interior of the bladder by a plurality of interior bonds that are spaced inward from a sidewall of the bladder.

21. The sole component recited in claim 20, wherein at least one of the interior bonds joins the first surface with the indentation.

22. The sole component recited in claim 20, wherein at least three of the interior bonds join the first surface with the indentation.

23. The sole component recited in claim 18, wherein the bladder includes two of the indentation.

24. The sole component recited in claim 18, wherein the indentation is positioned in a forefoot region of the bladder.

25. The sole component recited in claim 15, wherein the bladder includes at least two chambers, and the fluid within the two chambers exhibit different fluid pressures.
26. A sole component for an article of footwear, the sole component comprising:
a bladder formed of a barrier material that encloses a fluid, the bladder having a first surface and an opposite second surface, a spacing between the first surface and the second surface being greater in a heel region of the bladder than in a forefoot region of the bladder, and the bladder having a first width in the heel region and a second width in the forefoot region, the first width being less than the second width; and
a reinforcing structure secured to the bladder and extending at least partially around the bladder.
27. The sole component recited in claim 26, wherein the first surface and the second surface are joined by a plurality of interior bonds that are spaced inward from a sidewall of the bladder.
28. The sole component recited in claim 26, wherein the bladder is formed of a first barrier layer and a second barrier layer, the first barrier layer forming the first surface and a sidewall, and the second barrier layer forming the second surface.
29. The sole component recited in claim 28, wherein the reinforcing structure is secured to the first barrier layer.
30. The sole component recited in claim 26, wherein the bladder includes depressions extending along the sidewall, a portion of the reinforcing structure being positioned within the depressions and bonded to the depressions.
31. The sole component recited in claim 26, wherein the bladder includes at least one flexion indentation formed in the second surface, the indentation extending from a lateral side of the bladder to a medial side of the bladder.

32. The sole component recited in claim 31, wherein at least one interior bond joins the first surface with the indentation.
33. The sole component recited in claim 31, wherein the bladder includes two of the indentations.
34. The sole component recited in claim 31, wherein the indentation is positioned in a forefoot region of the bladder.
35. The sole component recited in claim 26, wherein the first surface and the second surface are joined by a plurality of interior bonds that are spaced inward from a sidewall of the bladder.
36. The sole component recited in claim 35, wherein an elevation of the interior bonds with respect to the first surface and the second surface varies.
37. A sole component for an article of footwear, the sole component comprising a bladder formed of a barrier material and enclosing a fluid, the bladder having a first surface, an opposite second surface, and a sidewall extending between the first surface and the second surface, and the bladder including a plurality of interior bonds spaced inward from the sidewall and joining the first surface with the second surface, a first portion of the interior bonds having an elongate configuration, and a second portion of the interior bonds having a non-elongate configuration.
38. The sole component recited in claim 37, wherein the second portion of the interior bonds exhibit at least one of a round and triangular configuration.
39. The sole component recited in claim 37, wherein at least one of the first portion of the interior bonds extends in a medial-lateral direction.
40. The sole component recited in claim 39, wherein the at least one of the first portion of the interior bonds is positioned in a heel region of the sole component.

41. The sole component recited in claim 39, wherein the at least one of the first portion of the interior bonds is positioned in a midfoot region of the sole component.
42. The sole component recited in claim 37, wherein at least one of the first portion of the interior bonds is positioned in a forefoot region of the sole component and extends in a longitudinal direction of the sole component.
43. The sole component recited in claim 37, wherein the bladder includes at least one flexion indentation formed in the second surface such that a space is formed between the indentation and the first surface, the space including the fluid.
44. The sole component recited in claim 43, wherein the indentation extends from a lateral side of the bladder to a medial side of the bladder.
45. The sole component recited in claim 43, wherein at least one of the interior bonds joins the first surface with the indentation.
46. The sole component recited in claim 43, wherein at least three of the interior bonds join the first surface with the indentation.
47. The sole component recited in claim 43, wherein the indentation is positioned in a forefoot region of the bladder.
48. The sole component recited in claim 37, wherein an elevation of the interior bonds with respect to the first surface and the second surface varies.